

Plant Fact Sheet

FALSE RHODES GRASS

Chloris crinita Lag.

Plant Symbol = CHCR

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center



USDA NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
Kingsville, Texas

Alternate Names

Chloris mendocina Phil., *Trichloris crinita* (Lag.) Parodi, *Trichloris mendocina* (Phil.) Kurtz, two flower trichloris

Uses

False Rhodes grass should be used primarily as a component in seed mixtures for range restoration. It has potential for use in pasture plantings, filterstrips, erosion control plantings, and landscaping.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's

current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

False Rhodes grass (*Chloris crinita*) is a native, warm-season perennial bunchgrass. It grows 1 to 2 feet tall, with leaves 3 to 8 inches long. The upper sides of the leaf blades are hairy near the base. Plants produce dense, feathery, 1- to 2-inch long seedheads that turn from green to light brown at maturity.

Adaptation and Distribution

False Rhodes grass grows best on sandy to sandy loam soils, and it will tolerate soils that are weakly saline. Its natural range is south of San Antonio, Texas in the western two-thirds of the Rio Grande Plain of Texas on west to Arizona.

For a current distribution map, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Website.

Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Planting can be scheduled for early spring or where there are few cool-season weeds, false Rhodes grass can be planted in the fall. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture.

False Rhodes grass is best seeded using a native-grass drill with picker wheels to ensure a good planting of the fluffy seed. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but some type of additional coverage will be beneficial to ensure good seed to soil contact.

Seed should be planted 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. It is better to plant too shallow than too deep. A seeding rate of 1 pound of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended. In planting mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of false Rhodes grass in the mixture.

Soil analysis should be performed prior to planting to determine the necessary levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen should not be applied until the stand is established. If 1 to 2 plants per square foot are present then the planting has been successful.

Management

False Rhodes grass should not be grazed the first year. After a stand is established, either continuous or rotational grazing can be used. It is recommended that a minimum 6-inch stubble height be maintained under continuous grazing. For rotational grazing, forage height should be utilized between 4 to 10 inches.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Kinney Germplasm (Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas) false Rhodes grass was released by the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in 1999. It was selected for its survivability, good seedling and plant vigor, forage production and drought tolerance. It is predominantly adapted to clay loam, claypan prairie, and tight sandy loam range sites.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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